THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M- V- CHANDRA SHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that, at present, there is no proposal under its consideration to allow banks to deal in securities on the Stock Exchanges.

(b) Does not arise.

हवाला रैकेट

265. मौलाना अबैदुल्ला खान आजमी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या एक बहुत बड़े हवाला रैकेट का पता चला है जिसमें कथित रूप से बड़े नेता और अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति शामिल हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Presumptive rate of tax

266. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of new assessees who have opted for presumptive rate of tax;

(b) whether Government are aware that people are forced by Income Tax Department to make the scheme successful; and

(c) whether Government have examined the representation of various trade bodies about the harassment and wtiar steps have been taken to curb the harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Upto the end of February, '95, 112520 persons have opted under the Presumptive Tax Scheme during 1994-95.

(to) and (o) No specific instance ot any coercion to pay tax under the Presumptive Tax Scheme under section 115K of the Income tax act has been brought to notice. However, in the wake of the general complaints, wide publicity has been given to the fact that the Scheme is absolutely voluntary and a taxpayer can either pay tax under the above scheme or resort to filing of returns, under the other provisions of the Income tax Act, if he has taxable income. The field authorities have also been strictly instructed to avoid any cause for complaints in this regard.

Licence given to scheduled commercial Banks

267- SHRI K- RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how may new scheduled commercial banks have been given licence and the names of such banks and the location of their registered offices;

(b) how may applications for licence to start scheduled banks are pending before the RBI upto 28th February, 1995 and names of the applicant; and

(c) how many more banks will be licensed from amongst the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY QF FINANCE (SHRI M-V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a). After issue of guidelines dated 22nd January. 1993 regarding setting up of new banks,in the private,(Sector, Reserve Bank of India (RBI)